

ROANOKE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT INFORMATION



Artist's Rendering

On November 16, 2004, Roanoke County awarded a contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation to construct a new Public Safety Building/Emergency Communication Center. The building will be located at 5925 Cove Road, in front of the Roanoke County School Administration Building. This much needed project will provide our public safety agencies new administrative space and a new Emergency Communications Center to best serve the needs of our residents.

FAQ's

Why is the County building this project?

The current Public Safety Building on Peters Creek Road is too small and is an old facility. It was originally built in the 1930's as a school and has been used as the Public Safety Building since the mid 1980's. In the past 20 years, the County has outgrown the building. Also, the E-911 communications equipment in the facility is outdated and must be upgraded. This facility is crucial to providing high quality public safety services to the citizens of Roanoke County.

Who will occupy the new building?

This will be an administrative building, not an emergency response point. The new building will house the administrative offices of the Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department and Information Technology Department as well as the Emergency Operations Center and the E-911 Dispatch Center. The facility will include the emergency radio system shared by the County and the City of Roanoke. Since Roanoke County Police will not have any holding facilities for suspects in the facility, there will be no persons under arrest housed in the building.

Will there be emergency vehicles dispatched from the new building?

There will be no Fire and Rescue vehicles responding from this facility. All Fire and Rescue calls are responded to from the various Fire and Rescue stations located throughout the County. Also, most Police vehicles are on the road in their patrol districts when they respond to calls, so emergency police responses from the facility will be rare.

How big is the facility?

The site for the facility is ten acres, which will include well landscaped parking areas. The building will be 77,000 square feet, with the first floor being built underground. The building will be two stories high from the front.

What will the construction impacts be?

Construction began in late February of 2005. It is expected to take approximately two years. During this period there will be building materials and construction equipment on site. The Roanoke County Code allows for construction to occur between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., unless these hours are waived by the County Board of Supervisors. As with any construction project, there may be some short-term inconveniences, and we will work with the community to minimize any that will occur.

What will the building look like?

This project will bring an attractive new facility to the community. The new building is designed to compliment the Glen Cove Elementary School and the School Administration Building. The old school warehouses will be removed.

Will there be any towers or antennae associated with the project?

In order for 911 dispatchers to communicate with our public safety personnel in the field, communications equipment will be necessary, and we are working diligently to minimize the size of any antennae or tower that will be needed. County rules ensure that any tower greater than 30 feet high must go through a stringent review process by the Planning Commission and County Board of Supervisors, with public hearings included. We do not believe we will need a tower, but the engineering to determine this has not been completed at this time.

How will traffic on Cove Road be impacted?

As public safety is a 24 hour a day function and Police work is spread out in three shifts, the increased traffic will be distributed throughout the day. Police shifts begin at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. Since this is a public facility, there will also be public traffic. Our current public safety building averages 60 visits from the public on a daily basis, including deliveries. There will be some impact on Cove Road, but motorists will be coming from two directions (from Route 419 and from Peters Creek Road) helping traffic to flow smoothly. Ample parking will be provided for the public and employees. There will be about 140 County employees at any one time in the building during peak daytime hours.

Who can I call for more information?

Assistant County Administrator Dan O'Donnell is the County's project manager for the Public Safety Building Project. Should you have any questions, he can be reached 540-772-2017 or by email at dodonnell@RoanokeCountyVA.gov.